THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Construction work on the Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal Project came to a halt in July 1990 following the killing of the Chief Engineer and a Superintending Engineer of the Project.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does Not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Government is keen for the early completion of the link canal as it will benefit both Haryana and Punjab.

Development of Inland Fisheries

2447. SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch new schemes for the development in inland fisheries in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Adequate scope exists for the development of inland fisheries in Kerala within the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

[*Translation*]

Coconut Plantation

2448. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of ARICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether majority coconut growing farmers are small farmers;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far by the Government for the encouragement of small farmers to take up coconut plantation;

(c) whether the Government propose to promote coconut allied industries in backward areas of Konkan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN): (a) Yes,Sir.

(b) The Coconut Development Board under the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing programmes for the expansion of area under coconut in small and marginal farmers holdings by providing a subsidy of Rs. 3000/- per ha. in three annual instalments. So far 65,000 small and marginal farmers have benefited under the programme. The Board have so far assisted 7050 coconut farmers. mainly small and marginal farmers, by providing subsidy @Rs. 1000/- per unit for installation of irrigation pumpsets. A project on integrated farming in coconut small holdings in Kerala in also being implemented by the Board.

(c) to (e). In order to promote coconut processing industry on modern lines, the Coconut Development Board on receipt of project proposals provides assistance to entrepreneurs @ 25% of the capital cost or Rs one lakh, whichever is less. Assistance is also extended to entrepreneurs utilising modern techniques in the processing of wet kernnels, coconut water, cocnut shell and wood. No proposal to promote coconut allied industries in the backward areas of Konkan has, however, been received by Coconut Development Board.